

Whereas the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, with the addition of the Reconstruction Era amendments, including the 14th and 15th Amendments, and the 19th Amendment, enshrine the rights and civil liberties of citizens of the United States, including the right to vote in free and fair elections;

Whereas the perpetuation of the ideals of democracy does not happen on its own, and can be stalled or reversed;

Whereas surveys show that citizens of the United States are losing faith in the democratic system;

Whereas former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said, "The practice of democracy is not passed down through the gene pool. It must be taught and learned anew by each generation of citizens.";

Whereas President John F. Kennedy said, "Democracy is never a final achievement. It is a call to untiring effort, to continual sacrifice and to the willingness, if necessary, to die in its defense.";

Whereas President Ronald Reagan said, "Democracy is worth dying for, because it's the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man.";

Whereas World War II demonstrated the fragility of democracy and the civilized life that accompanies democracy;

Whereas British Prime Minister Winston Churchill observed that, "Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time";

Whereas President George Washington said the United States must recognize the immense value of the national Union and work towards preservation of that Union with "jealous anxiety", and wrote that the security of a free Constitution may be accomplished by "teaching the people themselves to know and to value their own rights";

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Educate and inform the whole mass of the people They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.";

Whereas evidence of the diminution of strong support for democratic principles in recent years among citizens of the United States suggests the Government of the United States must once more teach and educate the people by taking appropriate actions to highlight and emphasize the importance of democratic principles and the essential role of democratic principles in the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2019 as "National Democracy Month";

(2) encourages States and local governments to designate September 2019 as "National Democracy Month";

(3) recognizes the celebration of "National Democracy Month" as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe "National Democracy Month" with appropriate ceremonies and activities that—

(A) provide appreciation for the system of government of the United States; and

(B) demonstrate that the people of the United States shall never forget the sacrifices made by past generations of people of the United States to preserve the freedoms and principles of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 253—DESIGNATING JUNE 19, 2019, AS "JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY" IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH NEWS OF THE END OF SLAVERY REACHED THE SLAVES IN THE SOUTHWESTERN STATES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WICKER, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 253

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free;

Whereas African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as "Juneteenth Independence Day", as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for more than 150 years;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now celebrated in 45 States and the District of Columbia as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 19, 2019, as "Juneteenth Independence Day";

(2) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 756. Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. BRAUN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1790, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 757. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 758. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 759. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 760. Mr. SASSE (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 761. Mr. SASSE (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 762. Mr. SASSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 763. Mr. SASSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 764. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 765. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 766. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 767. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 768. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 769. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 770. Mr. YOUNG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1790, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.